

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2013

William T. Pound, Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures
444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 515
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Pound,

This April marked the sixth annual National Safe Digging Month, the goal of which is to inform homeowners and professionals about safe digging procedures and the importance of "Call 811," the national number for people to call before they begin any excavation project. Dialing 811 before digging is the quickest and easiest way to prevent serious pipeline accidents – and save lives and property. Excavation damage is the leading cause of pipeline accidents in the United States. That is why we are urging you to develop responsible, common-sense approaches to raising awareness that states can advance to ensure safe digging practices in their communities by calling 811 before beginning any kind of digging project – no matter how big or small.

It is critically important that every state and community engage in innovative outreach campaigns to spread the word about safe digging. A utility line is damaged once every eight minutes in the United States due to excavation. Underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by those who fail to call 811 before digging, potentially causing service interruption, damage to the environment, personal injury and even death. Every digging project – even small projects like installing a mailbox, building a deck or planting a tree or garden – warrants a call to 811 to ensure that you avoid utility lines.

By promoting safe digging awareness through your leadership on this important issue, you will be playing a key role in helping to keep communities safe. It is crucial that every citizen be encouraged to "know what's below, and call 811 before digging" for safer and stronger communities across the country.

Thank you for your attention to this request and your continued interest in ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by raising awareness. We look forward to our continued dialogue.

Sincerely,



JEFF DENHAM

Chairman

Subcommittee on Railroads,
Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials



CORRINE BROWN

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Railroads,

Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials



JACKIE SPEIER

Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2013

Dan Crippen, Executive Director
National Governors Association
Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Crippen,

This April marked the sixth annual National Safe Digging Month, the goal of which is to inform homeowners and professionals about safe digging procedures and the importance of "Call 811," the national number for people to call before they begin any excavation project. Dialing 811 before digging is the quickest and easiest way to prevent serious pipeline accidents – and save lives and property. Excavation damage is the leading cause of pipeline accidents in the United States. That is why we are urging you to develop responsible, common-sense approaches to raising awareness that states can advance to ensure safe digging practices in their communities by calling 811 before beginning any kind of digging project – no matter how big or small.

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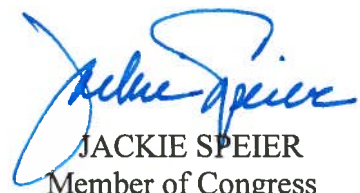
Sincerely,



JEFF DENHAM
Chairman
Subcommittee on Railroads,
Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials



CORRINE BROWN
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Railroads,
Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2013

Charles D. Gray, Executive Director
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
1101 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Gray,

This April marked the sixth annual National Safe Digging Month, the goal of which is to inform homeowners and professionals about safe digging procedures and the importance of “Call 811,” the national number for people to call before they begin any excavation project. Dialing 811 before digging is the quickest and easiest way to prevent serious pipeline accidents – and save lives and property. Excavation damage is the leading cause of pipeline accidents in the United States. That is why we are urging you to develop responsible, common-sense approaches to raising awareness that states can advance to ensure safe digging practices in their communities by calling 811 before beginning any kind of digging project – no matter how big or small.

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JEFF DENHAM
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